

Messages From South Africa Unitarians to the Rev. William G. Sinkford
(16 September, 2001)

Rev. William Sinkford
President of the Unitarian Universalist Association
25 Beacon Street,
Boston MA 02108- 2800
United States of America

Mr President,

At the National Gathering of South African Unitarians held in Cape Town from 14 to 16 September 2001 it was unanimously agreed to convey to you, our fellow Unitarian Universalists in the United States of America, our loving thoughts and sincere condolences at the recent tragic events that have caused the death of thousands of people in your country.

No person is an island and the violent death of just one person in your country is felt by us on the other side of the globe. We are numb with pain and sadness for your country and we hold you in our thoughts and prayers. We pray that your people will be comforted by the love and support of the international community and that Peace may prevail upon the earth.

Yours in Unitarianism,

Penny Buckland
Chairperson

From the Unitarians of Cape Town:

To our dear friends in the United States,

We want to say that we are mortified at what has happened in your country. We are horrified at this act of devil-mad terrorism that has wreaked such death and devastation on your people and we pray God that a quiet calm will come upon the world in which we all reflect seriously and prayerfully on the current state of humanity's morals, values and goals.

This surely must be a time for us to reflect personally on what our role individually may be as we live and work each day in relation to our fellow human beings in our diversity and differences. In our divided, frightened and insecure world we find ourselves with many questions. Why? Why do these things happen? We know that we have developed the ability to wipe ourselves off the face of this earth and everything else in the process. We have gone beyond the point of reasonableness and sensibility. We also know that none of us are islands unto ourselves. What happens on one side of the globe affects all on the other side. So we mourn with you and we share your horror and numbness at what has happened. We pray that there will no retaliation by the military or by politicians. Obviously those who are responsible for this deed must be brought

to justice and be punished but we hope that there will be a mature and dignified response in the actions that follow.

May your people be blessed in this time of sorrow and mourning.

Pat and Gordon Oliver and the Unitarians of Cape Town